

Early Learning Plan Community Outreach Meeting Summary **Silverdale**

Note: This is intended as a high-level “snapshot” of the conversation from the meeting. More detailed information was captured at the meeting and will be incorporated into the planning process.

Thursday, October 29

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Martha & Mary Early Learning Center

3513 Anderson Hill Rd., Silverdale

Hosted by Martha & Mary’s Children’s Services

Attending: Dr. Bette Hyde, Director, Department of Early Learning

- How to connect parents/families with services in community? We need a vehicle/architecture for doing that.
- Caring for school-age children: We need alignment with what schools want.
- Grants for summer programs to maintain gains.
- Kindergarten assessment: To what end?
- Funding to help children gain needed skills.
- Concern about number of kindergarten children referred to resource room, identified as needing additional skills.
- Funding:
 - Subsidized children growing as portion of child care population: Unsustainable
 - Career and wage ladder has been a “godsend.” If it goes away, I won’t survive. Use money to provide training as well as wage increases.
 - Particularly difficult to serve at-risk children with substantial needs.
 - Putting children in low-quality, unstable child care with inadequate subsidy doesn’t work.
- Issues for military families: different state programs, finding appropriate care wherever stationed, want universal approach and common standards, effective monitoring.
- Lots of talk, but waiting to see real results for real people.
- Any plans for incentives to promote quality? NAEYC accreditation alternative?
- Parents aren’t “getting” what it means to be a parent—government program funding should be tied to parent education (parent education should be prerequisite for subsidy).

- Biggest frustration for child care director is finding quality staff and providing ongoing training (coverage issues, etc.).
- QRIS has lots of promise, but will only work if higher quality programs get higher reimbursement/differentiated vendor rate that reflects true cost of quality care.